for allotment of STD/PCOs to handicapped persons including totally blind persons. No decision has been taken to discontinue such allotments.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

**Provision of Internet Facilities in Arunachal Pradesh**

589. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of towns/cities in Arunachal Pradesh where internet facilities have been provided;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Internet facilities have been provided at Along, Bombdila, Pasighat, Roing, Seppa, Itanagar, Tezu, Khonsa, Tawang, Ziro, Kimini, Namsai, Naharlagan, Chimpu, Doimukh, Nirjuli and Banderdewa. However, as on date there is no demand for Internet connection from Along, Roing, Tezu and Khonsa.

(b) and (c) Internet facility has not been provided at a few places due to technical reasons. The facility at these places will be provided subject to demand and technical feasibility.

**Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh**

590. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new telephone exchanges set up in Arunchal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the State during the next three years; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) the number of Telephone Exchanges set up in Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years are given below:

| Year | Number of Exchanges |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3 |
| 1998-99 | 13 |
| 1999-2000 | 8 |

(b) the number of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during the next three years are given as under:—

| Year | Number of Exchanges proposed to be set up |
|---|---|
| 2001-2002 | 7 |
| 2002-2003 | 5 |
| 2003-2004 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 18 |

(c) Following effective measures are taken in this regard:—

(i) New telephone exchanges are proposed where sufficient registered demand exists.

(ii) State Government is approached for acquisition of land for exchange buildings.

(iii) Availability of stores and equipment is ensured.

**Telephone on Demand in Andhra Pradesh**

591. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about four lakh consumers are in the waiting list for telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when this waiting list in the State is to be cleared; and